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Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1.   In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with
2   user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
3   interactive receiving display stations for displaying
4   received hypertext documents of at least one display page
5   containing text, images and a plurality of embedded
6   hyperlinks, each hyperlink being user selectable to
7   access and display a respective linked hypertext
8   document, a system for prioritizing said plurality of
9   embedded hyperlinks in each received hypertext document
10   comprising:
11   means for determining a weight for each of said
12   plurality of embedded hyperlinks,
13   means for prioritizing said plurality of embedded
14   hyperlinks based upon said weights, and
15   means for visually distinguishing said plurality of
16   embedded hyperlinks from each other based upon said
17   prioritizing, whereby said user may select said
18   hyperlinks based upon said prioritizing.

1   2.   The Web communication network system of claim 1
2   wherein said means for visually distinguishing said
3   hyperlinks include means for selectively highlighting a
4   set of said plurality of embedded hyperlinks.

1   3.   The Web communication network system of claim 2
2   wherein said means for selectively highlighting said set
3   of hyperlinks include means for varying the brightness of
4   said set of hyperlinks.

1   4.   The Web communication network system of claim 2
2   wherein said means for selectively highlighting said set
3   of hyperlinks include means for varying the color of said
4   set of hyperlinks.

1   5.   The Web communication network system of claim 2
2   wherein said means for selectively highlighting said set
3   of hyperlinks includes means for selectively blinking
4   said set of hyperlinks.

1   6.   The Web communication network system of claim 2
2   wherein said means for selectively highlighting said set
3   of hyperlinks include means for only activating   said set
4   of hyperlinks.

1   7.   The Web communication network system of claim 1
2   wherein said means for determining a weight for each of
3   said plurality of embedded hyperlinks determines said
4   weight based upon an attribute of the hypertext document
5   linked to each hyperlink.

1   8.   The Web communication network system of claim 7
2   wherein said attribute is the frequency with which the
3   linked hypertext document is universally accessed from
4   the Web.

1   9.   The Web communication network system of claim 7
2   wherein said attribute is the notoriety of the linked
3   hypertext document.

1   10.   The Web communication network system of claim 1

2   further including:

3   a Web search engine, and

4   wherein said means for determining the weight of

5   each of said plurality of embedded hyperlinks is in said

6   search engine.

1   11.   The Web communication network system of claim 1

2   wherein at least one of said receiving display stations

3   further includes a user interactive Web browser, said Web

4   browser including:

5   said means for prioritizing said plurality of

6   embedded hyperlinks based upon said weights, and

7   said means for visually distinguishing said

8   plurality of embedded hyperlinks from each other based

9   upon said prioritizing.

1   12.   The Web communication network system of claim 11

2   wherein said means for visually distinguishing said

3   plurality of embedded hyperlinks includes means for

4   selectively highlighting a set of said plurality of

5   embedded hyperlinks.

1   13.   The Web communication network system of claim 12

2   wherein said Web browser further includes means for

3   prefetching from the Web hypertext documents respectively

4   linked to said set of hyperlinks prior to a user

5   selection of any hyperlinks in said set.

1   14.   In a Web communication network with user access via
2   a plurality of data processor controlled interactive
3   receiving display stations for displaying received
4   hypertext documents of at least one display page
5   containing text, images and a plurality of embedded
6   hyperlinks, each hyperlink being user selectable to
7   access and display a respective linked hypertext
8   document, a method for prioritizing said plurality of
9   embedded hyperlinks in each received hypertext document
10   comprising:
11   determining a weight for each of said plurality of
12   embedded hyperlinks,
13   prioritizing said plurality of embedded hyperlinks
14   based upon said weights, and
15   visually distinguishing said plurality of embedded
16   hyperlinks from each other based upon said prioritizing,
17   whereby said user may select said hyperlinks based upon
18   said prioritizing.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein said step of visually
2   distinguishing said hyperlinks includes selectively
3   highlighting a set of said plurality of embedded
4   hyperlinks.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein said step of
2   selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks includes
3   varying the brightness of said set of hyperlinks.

1   17.   The method of claim 15 wherein said step of
2   selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks includes
3   varying the color of said set of hyperlinks.

1   18.   The method of claim 15 wherein said step of
2   selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks includes
3   blinking said set of hyperlinks.

1   19.   The method of claim 15 wherein said step of
2   selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks includes
3   only activating said set of hyperlinks.

1   20.   The method of claim 14 wherein said step of
2   determining a weight for each of said plurality of
3   embedded hyperlinks determines said weight based upon an
4   attribute of the hypertext document linked to each
5   hyperlink.

1   21.   The method of claim 20 wherein said attribute is the
2   frequency with which the linked hypertext document is
3   universally accessed from the Web.

1   22.   The method of claim 20 wherein said attribute is the
2   notoriety of the linked hypertext document.

1   23.   The method of claim 14 further including:
2   a Web search method including said step of
3   determining the weight of each of said plurality of
4   embedded hyperlinks.

1   24. The method of claim 14 further including a Web
2 browser method operatively associated with at least one
3 of said receiving display stations, said Web browser
4 method including said steps of:
5   prioritizing said plurality of embedded hyperlinks
6 based upon said weights, and
7   visually distinguishing said plurality of embedded
8 hyperlinks from each other based upon said prioritizing.

1   25. The method of claim 24 wherein said step of visually
2 distinguishing said plurality of embedded hyperlinks
3 includes selectively highlighting a set of said plurality
4 of embedded hyperlinks.

1   26. The method of claim 25 wherein said Web browser
2 method further includes the step of prefetching from the
3 Web hypertext documents respectively linked to said set
4 of embedded hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any
5 of said set of hyperlinks.

1   27. A computer program having code recorded on a
2   computer readable medium for prioritizing a plurality of
3   embedded hyperlinks in each received hypertext document
4   in a Web communication network with user access via a
5   plurality of data processor controlled interactive
6   receiving display stations for displaying said received
7   hypertext documents including a sequence of at least one
8   display page containing text, images and a plurality of
9   embedded hyperlinks, each hyperlink being user selectable
10 to access and display a respective linked hypertext
11 document, said program comprising:
12   means for determining a weight for each of said
13 plurality of embedded hyperlinks,
14   means for prioritizing said plurality of embedded
15 hyperlinks based upon said weights, and
16   means for visually distinguishing said plurality of
17 embedded hyperlinks from each other based upon said
18 prioritizing, whereby said user may select said
19 hyperlinks based upon said prioritizing.

1   28. The computer program of claim 27 wherein said means
2   for visually distinguishing said hyperlinks includes
3   means for selectively highlighting a set of said
4   plurality of embedded hyperlinks.

1   29. The computer program of claim 28 wherein said means
2   for selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks
3   includes means for varying the brightness of said set of
4   hyperlinks.

1 30. The computer program of claim 28 wherein said means
2 for selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks
3 includes means for varying the color of said set of
4 hyperlinks.

1 31. The computer program of claim 28 wherein said means
2 for selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks
3 includes means for selectively blinking said set of
4 hyperlinks.

1 32. The computer program of claim 28 wherein said means
2 for selectively highlighting said set of hyperlinks
3 include means for only activating said set of hyperlinks.

1 33. The computer program of claim 27 wherein said means
2 for determining a weight for each of said plurality of
3 embedded hyperlinks determines said weight based upon an
4 attribute of the hypertext document linked to each
5 hyperlink.

1 34. The computer program of claim 33 wherein said
2 attribute is the frequency with which the linked
3 hypertext document is universally accessed from the Web.

1 35. The computer program of claim 33 wherein said
2 attribute is the notoriety of the linked hypertext
3 document.

1 36. The computer program of claim 27 further including:
2   a Web search program, and
3   wherein said means for determining the weight for
4 each of said plurality of embedded hyperlinks is in said
5 search program.

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1   37.   The computer program of claim 27 wherein at least
2   one of said receiving display stations further includes a
3   user interactive Web browser program including:
4   said means for prioritizing said plurality of
5   embedded hyperlinks based upon said weights, and
6   said means for visually distinguishing said
7   plurality of embedded hyperlinks from each other based
8   upon said prioritizing.

1   38.   The computer program of claim 37 wherein said means
2   for visually distinguishing said plurality of embedded
3   hyperlinks includes means for selectively highlighting a
4   set of said plurality of embedded hyperlinks.

1   39.   The computer program of claim 38 wherein said Web
2   browser further includes means for prefetching from the
3   Web hypertext documents respectively linked to said set
4   of hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any hyperlinks
5   in said set.